Alternative question papers in UPSC exams

†3066. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the alternative of question paper of Hindi alongwith the compulsory question paper of English in the examinations of Union Public Service Commission; and

(b) if so, by when a final decision in this regard will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal before Union Public Service Commission to introduce a compulsory paper on Hindi language in any of the open competitive examinations conducted by the Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

Denial of promotion to Direct Recruitment of SC/ST Officers

3067. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that third proviso of sub-Rule 2 of Rule 12 of Recruitment Rules of Central Secretariat Service 1962 was deleted by Government in 1999 by an amendment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that these amendments have been applied retrospectively even for the panels of regular Under Secretaries from 1987 onwards thereby depriving the Direct Recruitment of SC/ST Officers of the Central Secretariat Service from getting promotion to the Grade-I of CSS; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Article 309 of the Constitution, the amendment to third proviso to Rule 12 (2) of the Central Secretariat

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Service (CSS) Rules, 1962, was carried out *vide* notification dated 8.3.1999. This amendment, which was effective from the date of publication, was made broadly on the following grounds:

(i) The Supreme Court in the case of S. Vinod Kumar Vs. UOI held that the provision for lower qualifying marks/lesser level of evaluation in the matter of promotion in favour of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was not permissible under Article 16(4) of the Constitution. In pursuance of this judgement, this Department issued O.M. dated 22.7.97, rescinding the earlier instruction, clarifying that there shall be no separate standard of evaluation for SC/ST officers for promotion and assessment of all the candidates for this purpose would be with reference to uniform standards;

(ii) Lower qualifying service as distinct from lower qualifying marks/ lesser standards of evaluation in the matter of promotion has not been provided under the general policy on reservation;

(iii) It was considered necessary in as much as seniority could not be substituted for eligibility and therefore a person should gain the uniform minimum experience in the feeder grade to be eligible for promotion to shoulder higher responsibility.

The Select Lists of Under Secretaries for the years 1987 to 1994 were issued between May, 2000 and August, 2002 in consonance with the aforesaid amendment dated 08.03.1999 as the same was in operation at the time of issue of these Select Lists.

Abolition of Karnataka administrative tribunal

3068. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal to abolish the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.